



Bringing Hope and Focus to Youth & Families of South Wight



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South Wight Youth Partnership | Charity Registration 1160139

SWAY January 2025 Update

The astute amongst you will have noticed that we missed an Update in November/December. The truth is that 2024 was not the easiest of years for us at SWAY. In the midst of much good work being done, there were the ongoing struggles to get the Community Hub started and the uncertainties with the staff team.



North West Elevation

Therefore, it has been difficult to give a clear picture of the progress of our work before now. We begin 2025 happily with greater clarity on both areas of SWAY, as well as great rejoicing at being awarded the KAVS (King's Award for Volunteer Service).

The SWAY Hub at Chale and the KAVS

The Hub Project has begun the building phase, after all obstacles have been negotiated. This is a huge relief to us all. The project has been in the planning for a number of years now and we are thankful to all our funders, supporters and to God that this vision is now beginning to be realized. We can now begin to plan how we can use this building, so that it may benefit the community of



Chale, the wider area and the work of SWAY with families and young people. Your prayers and support for this is without doubt appreciated.

The projected completion date is now August of this year. We then hope to have an exciting opening, which will include not only the opening of the building, but the official presentation of our King's Award for Voluntary Service, which we are so pleased to have been awarded. Nick England and Didi Nicholson had been most helpful in our achieving this Award and we remain grateful to them. It is testament to our faithful volunteers that our work has been recognised with this Award.

Changes to the SWAY team

With regard to our staff team, it is with great sadness that we announce that Andy Dorning has now moved on from SWAY and will be seeking pastures anew in the coming year. Andy has been a terrific servant of SWAY over these last 10 years. We have benefited enormously from his energy, passion for young





people and commitment to the work. It has been a privilege to work with him and see the work flourish and grow over the years as we have worked together.

Therefore, we wish him well for the future and are grateful for all he has contributed to the work of SWAY in his time with us. We have every confidence that he has the skills, ability and passion to make a difference wherever he goes next.

Sadly, Holly was not able to continue with us in a paid role as part-time youth worker, but she continues to help as a volunteer. We do value her greatly, as we do all our volunteers.

Since our last Update in June and our Annual Review in September, so much has happened. Here is a taster of what we have been doing.



Kathryn & Olivia - Cooking & River Project

Kathryn Alvis has settled well into her role as Youth and Families' Worker. Besides working with local families giving early help support, Kathryn is currently leading the 'Zoom Cook-Along Together' sessions that run throughout the winter and provide some tasty, nourishing meals and brings friends and family together fortnightly.

We have had some excellent feedback from these sessions, with young people clearly enjoying the experience of learning to cook and collaborating together. One young person commented,

"My favourite part of making lasagne was when we layered it all up, because I felt like a real chef."

It is not only the young people who appreciate the Cook-Alongs, the parents do too:

"Thank you for all of your efforts to run the Cook-Alongs. We certainly get so





much out of them.”

We were thrilled that Asda and the Co-op have been so generous with supplying us with the necessary ingredients for the recipes. Kathryn is also seeking to liaise with the Chale community in preparation for the start of the Hub there.

Olivia is well into her second year at Moorlands College and enjoying her time there. She feels she is learning so much in preparation to be a youth worker. It has definitely been a good move for her. Olivia and Kathryn have together taken on the running of the River Project for the year. We have 4 groups of 4 from the 3 schools again (Niton, Brighstone and St Francis, Ventnor) and this mentoring is inspiring and encouraging the year 6's in the groups. There have been trips to Snacks and Ladders and ice-skating in Portsmouth and there will be more to follow in the coming months. These trips, besides being fun, have helped to build the young people's confidence in trying new experiences and meeting other young people outside of their school friendship group.



Again, we have received some very encouraging feedback from children and parents alike.

“Sunday evenings are better because I can look forward to enjoying River Project at lunchtimes in school: thanks for coming into school for me.”

So much to mention...

It is difficult to mention everything that has happened so far this year. We must not omit to mention a lively River Project 2023/24 reunion social at Pizza Hut in September attended by 11 young people. Then there was the Lakes' Awards evening, where Ruby had the honour of being awarded the Roy Bromley Young Volunteer of the Year. Young people enjoyed a visit from the Navy Team to provide some challenges for an evening and who hope to return with more team building exercises in March.





Christmas

In early December, a group of young people paid a visit to Harbour Church in Gunwharf, where the high spot seemed to be getting up on the platform and singing "Do they know it's Christmas?" after the service had finished!

A variety of homes of some of our older folk were visited with carols, both at Niton and Brighstone, in the days leading up to Christmas. This was, as always, much appreciated by those visited. One lady in Brighstone remarked, "It is very special that you do this. We don't get any carol singers these days and your coming makes Christmas very special for me. Thank you so much."

Several appreciative comments included the fact that their Christmas started once visited by SWAY carol singers.

ROOTs and Rock Solid young people made their own splendid tree contribution to the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival and a brave few faced the elements to help with the car parking at the Pearl on the Saturday of the Festival. Finally,



there was the annual Stars of Wonder concert at St Mary's, where some lovely musical performances (including Lucy Warvill singing 10000 Reasons) was enriched by the delightful Christmas trees throughout the Church.

Youth Groups, 10 Years' Celebration & Fundraising efforts

The SWAY Youth Groups held in Niton (Rock Solid for school years 6-7, and ROOTs for school years 8 and above) have been growing in attendance. Led by a youth leader, volunteers and Young Leaders, on average 25 young people enjoy meeting others, and have a chance to chill and de-stress with a variety of fun games and engaging activities every week during term time.

Our new crop of Young Leaders met for Pizzas in September to start the year. There were 18 young leaders, who will help at various events throughout the year. Six of those leaders helped out at our 10 Year Celebration at Northcourt in November, which was an excellent occasion, attended by around 60 guests. We celebrated 10 years of SWAY, with a slide presentation of the past 10 years and also looking ahead. We had inspiring talks by Olivia, Kathryn and Lucy Peckham (one of our Young Leaders) on their roles within SWAY.





This celebration launched a year of fundraising for SWAY. So far we have had a ROOTs Christmas Coffee Morning in Niton (£430), a Stars of Wonder concert in Brighstone (£230), 10 hours of poetry in the Olive Garden, Brighstone (£50) and a quiz in the Buddle Inn, Niton (£450). There are more fundraisers to come this year, which we shall bring to your attention in good time for your support.

We were also very grateful to Chrissie Acland for raising funds at her 9 Lessons and Carols in Mottistone, donations from the Brass Band concert in Niton Parish Church and the English Country Dance group. Such generous acts of support like this are always so encouraging.

It must not fail to be mentioned: the tip-reclaimed coin counting at Niton Methodist Church! What fun - 7 bags of thousands of discarded coins of all sorts, to be sorted and bagged. Over 3 evenings so far, over £600 has been bagged and given to the bank to help provide valuable activities for SWAY young people. This activity was enthusiastically supported by adults and young people alike; armed with plastic gloves and coin bags, a lot of fun was had separating out those reclaimed coins. It could well be that, by the time we finish, we will gather over £1000 for SWAY funds.



Plans & Dreams

We are always seeking to meet the challenges that come before us and a number of people have stepped up this year to the task of fundraising, for which we are very grateful. However, we do see the need for a paid role that would help us with fundraising, oversee the youth work and the running of the Hub. In itself, this new and exciting role requires funding, to which we are turning our attention. We hope to have someone in place by August, but that will depend on finding that funding.

We are also aware that we need to increase our regular giving from supporters. If you can help us with this we would be very grateful. We do have some faithful and regular supporters who give generously, but we need more to sustain the work.

We don't enjoy being so bold in talking about fundraising, but we cannot continue our work, which is much needed, without those funds is the harsh reality.

And to come...

In closing, may we draw your attention to a number of events coming up: a curry night for the Young Leaders in late January, half term activities in February, Corf camp in May, a full meal planned, prepared and cooked for the River Project children by the Young Leaders and the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) residential in the summer. Of course, there is lots more going on – River Project mentoring, our regular youth groups and trips, cricket coached taster sessions, Zoom Cook-Alongs and more Harbour Church visits.

Please hold us in your thoughts and prayers. Do get in touch if you can help in any way. Thank you as ever for all your support and interest.

How to make a donation to SWAY

You can donate straight to SWAY using the bank account details below, **OR** through our PayPal Giving Page: <https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3225911>

If you would like to become a regular donor, please complete the Standing Order mandate.

Please consider if you are able to Gift Aid your donation.

Just fill in this form and return to:

SWAY, c/o Upper Bramstone Farm, Chale Street, Chale, Ventnor. PO38 2HG

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to **Gift Aid** all my donations to SWAY until I give notice otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details:

Title: First name or initial(s): Surname:

Full Home address:

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Account in the name of:

Please pay to: **South Wight Area Youth Partnership (SWAY)**

Account no: **81783211** Sort Code: **40-34-26**

Please pay: Monthly Quarterly Annually

Commencing (dd/mm/yyyy): / /

The sum of: £2 £5 £10 £20 Other (please specify)

Date: Signature:

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